

Meeting Notes

10 October 2007

Location: BLM Office, 915 Walla Walla Ave., Wenatchee

For more info contact: Casey Baldwin 509-664-3148

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RTT Members in Attendance: Casey Baldwin, Chuck Peven, Steve Hays, Tom Kahler, Tracy Hillman, John Arterburn, Bob Rose, Kate Terrell, Joe Lange, Carmen Andenougui, Joe Kelly, Cameron Thomas, Joe Kelly

Others in Attendance: Pamela Nelle, Jennifer Molesworth, John Crandall, Derek Van Marter, James White

1. Review and adopt agenda

Casey convened the meeting at 9:05. The group had a few minor additions to the agenda.

2. Revised Biological Strategy

With regard to edits offered from outside the RTT review, Casey projected those suggestions for the group to consider. He reviewed each of the suggestions and asked for additional clarification and approval. Casey will circulate final revisions and additional tracked changes to the RTT for comment before finalizing. Derek noted that the reference for the upper Columbia salmon recovery plan can now be updated to reference the 2007 final plan. A subgroup of the RTT will be working on revisions to the scoring criteria on October 15.

3. Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Chuck provided an update to the group. He volunteered to begin coordination of getting James White, UCSRB data steward, on track and moving forward with organizing the regional database. He has set a date of October 31 as an information-gathering meeting between several data collection partners.

Pamela provided the RTT with an update regarding the ISEMP program. She is working to coordinate with other monitoring programs to ensure that field activities are not occurring at the same time, and to see if other programs have the opportunity to share data. Casey mentioned that we need to be more pro-active to prevent overlap in sampling in the field (double sampling). The RTT talked about the need to ensure that all the various monitoring representatives attend the spring monitoring workshop. The RTT will look at the invite list in December and ensure that all the appropriate individuals and groups will be invited. We recommend that the UCSRB send a letter to the SRFB inviting them to attend the spring workshop since one of the “double-sampling” events occurred with one of their contractors. Additionally, the Wild Fish Conservancy should have been invited since they were out in Icicle and Chiwaukum Creeks and nearly “double sampled” with an ISEMP crew in Chiwaukum Creek. A suggestion was made to post sampling schedules and locations on the UCSRB

website. Since schedules change regularly it was decided that it may be more appropriate to post information on a contact in each subbasin. Pamela Nelle would be the contact for the Wenatchee and Entiat whereas John Arterburn would be the contact for the Okanogan. The Methow was undetermined.

Casey said that the effort to prioritize the data gaps, information needs and research priorities has not materialized to date. Keely has done some work on the list presented at the Sept. meeting, but the subgroup has not been able to meet to finalize the effort to bring forward to the RTT. The subgroup will attempt to convene and work on the materials to present to the RTT in November. Casey pointed out that it's not a time sensitive task and just needs to be completed over the winter.

John Arterburn suggested getting OBMEP and ISEMP together for another coordination meeting to ensure that the programs are in sync. He will work with Pamela to coordinate a meeting.

4. UCSRB Update

Derek provided the RTT with updates on (a) the new data steward; James White was introduced to the RTT (b) the final recovery plan; and (c) the process to update the recovery plan's implementation schedule.

5. Methow Monitoring Coordination Proposal

Casey provided a brief background as to why John Crandall was invited to discuss the proposal with the RTT. Jon explained the background of the project and how it is similar, as well as how it differs from the other ongoing monitoring programs in the region. The RTT did not want to provide specific support to Jon's proposal as a matter of process. To be fair to all project sponsors, the RTT has never endorsed a particular project.

There was some uncertainty as to how the RTT would interact with this project if it receives funding and proceeds. Casey summarized the discussion by saying that the RTT will need to clarify its role and further discuss the topic as it progresses.

6. Methow USBR Request for Review of MIRP Progress

Jennifer Molesworth briefed the RTT on what the Methow Instream Restoration Program (MIRP) is and the final product resulting from the assessment. She clarified that Reclamation is not bringing forward any specific projects; rather, they will have identified areas for specific activities as a result of the reach assessment. The RTT suggested that Reclamation come present the information to the group, and suggested devoting at least a half day at the December 12 RTT meeting.

7. Community Salmon Fund Project Review

Casey said that he was informally contacted about reviewing the upcoming round of Community Salmon Fund Projects. Casey still needs to talk directly with Bill O'Malley to get clarity on the process, timeline and expectations. Casey asked the RTT if and how it wants to be involved in the next funding round of Community

Salmon Fund proposals. Kate said that in the past a subgroup of the RTT was convened to rate the technical merits of projects. The group used NFWF form for evaluations and the time commitment was minimal. The group agreed that it would indeed want to be involved in reviewing the projects, pending the answers to the process questions that Casey will be seeking.

8. Other business

Casey asked for an executive session among RTT members to discuss the need for an Advisory Board comprised of members from the RTT and possibly the Executive Director of the UCSRB. The purpose of an Advisory Board would be to provide assistance to Casey in helping to tee up agenda topics, particularly those with political ramifications, and to help follow through on items that need additional RTT input outside of the regular monthly RTT meetings. Kate mentioned that this group could lay out the pros and cons of each side of a topic so the full RTT could have a more structured discussion.

Some members were opposed to the idea of an Advisory Board for fear that it might separate the group or minimize the effectiveness of the full RTT. The group agreed to withhold a decision on convening an Advisory Board at this point. In the interim, Casey suggested holding an executive session as part of each monthly meeting, or as needed.

Furthermore, the RTT suggested adhering more to its bylaws, particularly with respect to project proponents bringing ideas or proposals to the RTT. The bylaws currently state that they must make that request in writing at least 30 days prior to the review and outline what their expectations are from presenting to the RTT.

9. Adjourn

Casey adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Meeting notes by: Derek Van Marter and Casey Baldwin

Meeting Notes approved by: Chuck Peven, Steve Hays, Tom Kahler, Tracy Hillman, John Arterburn, Bob Rose, Kate Terrell, Joe Lange, Carmen Andenougui, Joe Kelly, Cameron Thomas, Joe Kelly